

Message Text

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SUBJECT: EC FOREIGN MINISTERS COUNCIL JULY 15, 1975: HIGHLIGHTS

REF: (A) EC BRUSSELS 5852 (NOTAL)

(B) EC BRUSSELS 6380

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: THE FOREIGN MINISTERS OF THE EC
CONSIDERED A NUMBER OF TOPICS DURING THE FIRST DAY OF THEIR
TWO-DAY MEETING IN BRUSSELS ON JULY 15. THE GERMANS
WITHDREW THEIR PREVIOUS OBJECTIONS TO THE EC MULTI-ANNUAL
RESEARCH PROGRAM AS WELL AS THE COMMUNITY'S ENERGY-RELATED
RESEARCH EFFORT. DURING THE RESTRICTED PORTION OF THEIR
MEETING, THE MINISTERS HEARD A DANISH STATEMENT ON GREENLAND;
DISCUSSED THE SIGNING OF THE FINAL ACT OF CSCE; AND APPROVED
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A STATEMENT ON THE OPENING OF RELATIONS BETWEEN THE

COMMUNITY AND CHINA. THE MINISTERS' DISCUSSIONS ON FINANCIAL AID TO PORTUGAL AND ON THE MIDDLE EAST ARE REPORTED SEPTELS. END SUMMARY.

2. CSCE: DURING THE RESTRICTED PORTION OF THE COUNCIL, THE MINISTERS DISCUSSED CSCE AT LENGTH. OUR SOURCES INDICATE THAT THEIR DISCUSSION FOCUSED PRIMARILY ON THE MANNER IN WHICH THE COMMUNITY SHOULD ADHERE TO THE FINAL ACT OF THE CONFERENCE. THE COMMISSION URGED THE MEMBER STATES TO STAND FIRM AND TO INSIST THAT ITALIAN PRESIDENT MORO SIGN OVER THE PRINTED NOTATIONS OF BOTH HIS ITALIAN AND COMMUNITY TITLES. THE MEMBER STATES, WHILE AGREEING IN VIEW OF THE COMMISSION'S RESPONSIBILITIES FOR CERTAIN SUBJECTS IN BASKET II THAT THE COMMUNITY MUST BE INCLUDED IN SOME FORM, DID NOT GIVE FULL BACKING TO THE COMMISSION'S POSITION. WE DO NOT YET KNOW IF ANY FALLBACK POSITIONS WERE CONSIDERED BY THE MINISTERS.

3. CHINA: THE MINISTERS ADOPTED A DECLARATION TO BE ISSUED BY THE HEADS OF GOVERNMENT FOLLOWING THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL NOTING WITH SATISFACTION THE DEVELOPMENT OF RELATIONS BETWEEN THE EC AND CHINA.

4. DENMARK/GREENLAND: THE DANISH DELEGATION MADE A STATEMENT NOTING THAT THEY WERE IN THE PROCESS OF EXAMINING THE FUTURE STATUS OF GREENLAND. THE POSSIBILITY EXISTED THAT GREENLAND MIGHT BE GRANTED A LARGELY AUTONOMOUS POSITION ANALOGOUS TO THAT ENJOYED BY THE FAEROE ISLANDS. IF THIS CHANGE IN STATUS WERE TO TAKE PLACE, BEARING IN MIND GREENLAND'S NEGATIVE VOTE IN THE 1972 DANISH REFERENDUM ON THE EC, THE DANES SAID THAT IT MIGHT BE NECESSARY TO SEEK A REVISION OF THEIR ACCESSION TREATY EXEMPTING GREENLAND FROM COMMUNITY MEMBERSHIP.

5. EC RESEARCH PROGRAM: THE GERMANS DROPPED THEIR PREVIOUS OBJECTIONS, AND THE MINISTERS WERE ABLE TO APPROVE COMPROMISE PROPOSALS FOR TASKING AND FUNDING THE COMMUNITY RESEARCH CENTER AT PETTEN, THE NETHER-
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LANDS (SEE REFTEL A).

6. ENERGY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT: THE COUNCIL APPROVED A TWO-PHASE PROGRAM FOR ENERGY-RELATED RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT, AUTHORIZING THE SPENDING OF APPROXIMATELY \$16 MILLION BETWEEN JULY 1, 1975 AND DECEMBER 31, 1976. FOLLOWING A PROGRAM REVIEW, APPROXIMATELY \$63 MILLION WILL BE COMMITTED TO THE

SECOND PHASE OF THE PROGRAM WHICH IS TO LAST UNTIL
JUNE 30, 1979.

7. EC/MEXICO: THE NON-PREFERENTIAL, FIVE-YEAR AGREE-
MENT BETWEEN THE EC AND MEXICO WAS SIGNED JULY 15 AND
WILL ENTER INTO FORCE ON THE FIRST DAY OF THE MONTH
FOLLOWING EXCHANGE OF INSTRUMENTS OF RATIFICATION.
THE AGREEMENT, THOUGH NON-PREFERENTIAL, IS THE FIRST
BETWEEN THE EC AND A LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRY WHICH GOES
BEYOND THE TRADITIONAL FRAMEWORK OF PURELY COMMERCIAL
ARRANGEMENTS (SEE EC BRUSSELS 5679 FOR ADDITIONAL
BACKGROUND).

8. ICELAND: THE MINISTERS WERE NOTIFIED DURING THE
COURSE OF THE MEETING OF ICELAND'S DECISION TO
EXTEND TO 200 MILES ITS FISHING LIMITS. WE UNDER-
STAND THERE WAS NO DISCUSSION OF THIS PROPOSAL BUT
THE MATTER WAS REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE OF PERMANENT
REPRESENTATIVES (COREPER) FOR CONSIDERATION AS SOON
AS POSSIBLE.

9. MEDITERRANEAN: THE MINISTERS WERE GIVEN A REPORT
ON THE STATUS OF NEGOTIATIONS WITH SPAIN AND THE
MAGHREB AND MASHRAQ COUNTRIES UNDER THE EC'S
GLOBAL MEDITERRANEAN POLICY. THE MATTER IS TO BE
CONSIDERED AGAIN WHEN THE FOREIGN MINISTERS NEXT MEET
ON JULY 22. GREENWALD

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